

PEN PARK EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER



ADMINISTRATOR'S CORNER

By David Morrow

I guess the older you get the more cognizant you are of how rapidly things have changed. When I graduated from college, it seemed like everyone wanted to get away from the city and really experience the outdoors. Like many of you, I couldn't wait to get a job working in a park setting. I was elated when I got the news I had been selected to work for Utah State Parks and immediately called several of my friends to gloat about my good fortune. It was the fulfillment of a lifetime of dreams and a very special opportunity that everyone seemed to envy. To actually get a job in a state or national park was a big deal. There were a number of colleges and universities that had outdoor recreation, wildlife and forestry programs and all of the programs were brimming with students who wanted the same opportunity.

There were 75 other people who applied at the same time I did; five years after being hired, Utah State Parks was sorting through 150-250 applications. Times have changed, there are less

applicants and their profile has also significantly changed. We just recently setup a recruitment that only netted four applicants who actually made it to the first battery of tests. There just doesn't seem to be the same zeal to become a park ranger or wildlife officer as there use to be. There are lots of theories including: low pay, shift work, two working partnership and a general change in most people's career plans. I believe that most state park agencies recognize the need to change their recruiting practices, which will make our task even more difficult. If employees are no longer beating down the door, then we need to get out and find them. We need to get high school age students interested in state parks through school visits, special projects and even internship programs. We need to continue that effort right into the college level by attending college job seminars and working closely with college recruiters. We also need to consider less traditional applicants, like those who have retired from one career and would still like work, but doing something they really enjoy.

To survive in the future we need to ask more questions about who our future visitors will be and where the future park professionals will come from? We also will need to find ways to replace all of the wonderful academic programs that are no

longer available. To attract applicants, we may need to loosen up our requirements and include a wider range of degrees. As a result we may also need a much stronger training and mentorship program that will better prepare our new employees. Hopefully, thinking and working on these issues together we can begin to find the answers we need. If left unaddressed, this decline will have long term impacts on both the park's workforce and the visitorship we all enjoy and depend on for the longevity of state parks.

OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE

By Allen Newberry

Considering recent events, I am choosing to forgo the normal flow of information normally noted in our employee newsletter. I would instead like to pay tribute to a special lady that has been so much apart of the state park family for nearly twenty-eight years. **Norma Saffell** began her career with state parks in on December 26, 1977. We are aware that all things respond to the call of rejoicing and all things gather where life is a song. This past week many of us were able to experience a celebration of life for a dear friend, a partner in the work experience, a mentor, and life director. I have known Norma for a large percentage of my work career within this agency. Norma was a special person that was always willing to give cheer, assistance, or some direct rehabilitative counseling if necessary and needed, which I often did. Norma helped to not only establish the pulse of the Las Vegas Region, but also statewide within the agency. Norma also helped many staff members working for forestry, and wildlife willingly and cheerfully.

Many of us statewide traded novels with Norma back and forth over the years and enjoyed discussing the books and ideas learned from the books we exchanged. She was always excited to start a new book and/or to pass on a particularly good one to others who shared the joy of reading. At the memorial service, her son advised she had over five-thousand books at her home.

**In Memory of
Norma Saffell
1939 to 2004**



OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE (Con't)

It seemed one of the best part of Norma's work day was to go to lunch. She loved the noon meal and advised that we should never skip lunch as it was the best meal of the day and the best for our health. At lunch one would often find Norma reading, if not in the company of others.

At the memorial service one of the poems was entitled "I'm Free," which I am including for all to review, and think about in the coming weeks.

*"I'm Free"**Don't grieve for me for now I'm FREE**I'm following the path God laid for me.**I took His hand when I heard Him call**I turned my back and left it all.**I could not stay another day.**I found that peace at close of day.**If my parting has left a void,**Then, fill it with remembered joy.**A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss,**Ah! Yes these things I too will miss.**Be not burdened with times of sorrow**I wish you the sunshine of tomorrow.**My life's been full, I've savored much.**Good friends, good times,**A loved one's touch.**Perhaps my time seemed all too brief.**Don't lengthen it now with undone grief.**Lift up your hearts and share with me.**God wanted me now:**HE SET ME FREE*

So, for now, we say so long fully knowing that we shall meet again. In the mean time, we will remember the fun we shared and the knowledge we gained as we worked together throughout the years, thankful for our friendships and thinking of the day we will meet again.

**PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT (P&D)***By J. Steve Weaver*

P&D has welcomed aboard our new Q1 Project Architect (now Project Manager I), **Marc Lepire**, as of 10/25/04. Marc came to us from Nevada Department of Transportation's (NDOT) Architectural Division, where he has worked the last three years. Before that, he was employed by John Copoulos, Architect, where he actually worked on several Nevada State Park projects. These included the Spooner Lake Fee Booth, Spring Mountain Ranch Outbuildings Restoration, and the Mormon Station Visitor Center logs rehabilitation/replacements project. Marc received his Bachelor of Architecture degree in 1995 from Woodbury University in Burbank, CA. His first two projects will involve the Sand Harbor Visitor Center Concession Interior and the new Mormon Station Restroom facility.

This fall, we've managed to wrap up (or nearly wrap up) several Park Improvement projects. First of all, **John Munoz** has managed to get the Cathedral Gorge campground renovation project completed, including some water system/irrigation system upgrades and a new RV dump station. **Joe Cyphers** did the engineering.

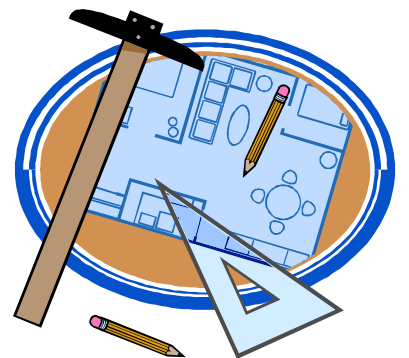
Meanwhile, the new Wild Horse Boat Ramp Expansion has been essentially completed. Restoration efforts of the historic adobe structures at Ft. Churchill are also nearly complete. **Lisa Shettler** was the project manager on both of these. The utility upgrades at Sand Harbor are also essentially complete, thanks to **Joe Cypher's** exemplary efforts.

Bob Martin is in charge of the Sand Harbor and Old Las Vegas Mormon Fort visitor centers, both of which are currently under construction, and expected to be completed sometime this spring. Unfortunately, Bob has faced nearly every problem imaginable with the Sand Harbor Visitor Center, but has done an outstanding job overcoming every obstacle thrown at him. The new park office and info center at Lahontan-Silver Springs is also under construction; **Lisa Shettler** is the project manager. She also has the Rye Patch Boat Parking Expansion project under construction.



Bids were just opened for the new pedestrian bridge across the upper reaches of the Echo Canyon Reservoir; **John Munoz** hopes to have that in place sometime next year. John will also be the project manager for the Sand Harbor Site Restoration project, for which a consultant contract for development of construction plans was just approved. We are also hopeful that NDOT will get the Buckland Station 1st Floor Restoration TEA-21 (Transportation Enhancement Program) project out to bid in the very near future; **Marc Lepire** will be Park's project manager.

Larry Chapin is in the process of finally wrapping up the Mormon Station Park Master Plan revision. Larry has also just released "Requests for Statements of Qualifications" (SOQ's) from prospective consultant teams for Big Bend Phase III Park Improvements (new campground, fee booth, road & parking paving, and boat lagoon slope stabilization) and expansion of the Valley of Fire campground.



PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT (Con't)

Requests for SOQ's will also be going out shortly for master planning of the proposed Dangberg Ranch State Historic Park in Carson Valley and Floyd Lamb State Park. **Steve Weaver** will be project manager for Dangberg, while **Brad Eckert** will be taking over project management for the Floyd Lamb Master Plan, with some oversight by Steve. Meanwhile, the master planning process for the proposed Van Sickle CA/NV Bi-State Park is nearly completed, and negotiations are underway with the consultant team for Phase I construction documents; **Steve** continues to be the project manager for this exciting new concept in state parks.

The State Trails Plan is seeing the light at the end of the tunnel, thanks to both **Brad Eckert's** and **Cheryl Surface's** efforts. They just completed a series of public workshops statewide as part of the planning process, and can now refine the proposed actions necessary to address the various trails related issues that have already been established. **Cheryl** is also managing the RecTrails grant program.

Upon completion of the State Trails Plan early next year, **Brad Eckert** will be initiating a State Park User Survey that will be conducted in the next couple of years. This survey will give us a handle on the changing user trends within our parks, along with use patterns, user origins & demographics, etc. Our last statewide park user survey was conducted in 1987...times have certainly changed since then!

Finally, **Randy Moore** is taking on increased responsibility on an interim basis for management of the Federal Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grant program, in addition to his regular responsibilities for concession contracts and park resource management. He is currently in charge of FY '04 political subdivision LWCF grants, closing out completed grant projects, overseeing the required 5 year post-completion inspections, and processing approvals of park conversions to alternative uses. The latter is especially complicated since the Federal Land and Water Conservation Act of 1965, Section 6(f)(3) requires that any conversions of LWCF financed park lands or facilities to non-recreation use be replaced with newly dedicated park land of equal or greater monetary and recreational value. This involves a myriad paperwork, appraisals, meetings, etc.

RECREATIONAL TRAILS

By Cheryl Surface

"I've been everywhere man, crossed the desert square man, breathed the mountain air man," could be the theme for my first three months as the new RecTrails Program Manager. Getting familiar with thirty-eight recreational trails projects, scattered from the corners of Wild Horse Reservoir, through the Shoshone Range, over the Lake Tahoe Basin and down towards

the Boulder Highway Trail has kept the wheels turning on the surplus Camero.

I'm slowly learning the acronyms and wading through the mounds of paperwork associated with grant administration.

Brad Eckert, Park and Recreation Program Manager, and I have been working on the State Trails Plan. Brad completed the trail issues survey component in September. We then hosted four public workshops in Carson City, Elko, Ely and Las Vegas to develop action items addressing the survey's top trail issues in Nevada.

These action items will be used in developing the State Trails Plan. The final component, of the State Trails Plan, consisting of a statewide trails inventory, is ongoing, with Brad bouncing around the dirt roads of Lahonton with a GPS in hand.



Brad and I recently returned from the State Trail Coordinators Workshop and 17th National Trails Symposium in Austin, Texas, where I picked up national information on everything from SWECO trail building machines to allowable expenditures under the Recreational Trails Program. **Jay Howard** of the Nevada Tahoe Resource Team received the **National Trail Advocacy Award**, representing Nevada and **Charlie Smith** of the Tahoe Hardrockers was awarded the **National Trail Worker Award** for Nevada.

If you have a trail project in mind, please contact me for assistance with design and development. Happy Trails!

CARSON REGION**REGION HEADQUARTERS**

By Brad Kosch

There have been some changes to the Carson Region Office. This summer the Accounting Assistant position was transferred back from the Division Office. As a result, last August, **Michele Hudson**, who transferred to State Parks from the Department of Administration, joined the Carson Region staff. We are excited and fortunate to have Michele at Region II. She has been busy learning about parks and tackling our never ending flow of paperwork.



In addition, **Jean Murray** has announced her retirement effective November 14th. Jean has supervised Dayton and Mormon Station for the past four years and her energy and enthusiasm will be missed. We wish Jean the best in retirement.

CARSON-TAHOE REGION (Con't)

DAYTON STATE PARK

By Jean Murray

This is a story of the unexpected. It is a personal story, not a park story, but I want to tell it anyway. By now most of you have probably heard that I am leaving State Parks on a disability retirement. It may seem strange to you and it certainly seems that way to me.

Over the course of many years I have been periodically tired, more tired than friends of similar lifestyle and age. Many doctors and blood tests later, there were no good guesses about what caused this extreme fatigue. It would come and go. Throughout this time I taught aerobics, jogged and rode a bicycle. About eight years ago I stopped jogging, because my legs would get numb; I thought it was a pinched nerve from a long ago back injury and never mentioned it. Then about four years ago strange things began happening to my vision whenever I exercised or became stressed. The next batch of tests discovered the problem and I was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis in 2002.

Multiple Sclerosis is a strange auto-immune disease that affects each individual differently. Scleroses are scars and they form in the brain. Think of the brain as a circuit panel. The scars cause shorts in the wiring. Or, clinically:

MS is the result of damage to myelin - a protective sheath surrounding nerve fibers of the central nervous system. When myelin is damaged, this interferes with messages between the brain and other parts of the body.

For some people, MS is characterized by periods of relapse and remission while for others it has a progressive pattern. For everyone, it makes life unpredictable.

Unpredictable! Well, that is the story. Some days I function like everyone else and other days I just sleep. There is no cure for this disease at this time. Each week I give myself an injection of a very strong drug that *"may reduce the frequency and severity of relapses, reduce brain lesion development, and possibly reduce future disability."* The day following the injection feels like having a bad hangover.

So, working has become more of a challenge during the past year or so. Aside from fatigue, there have been other challenges. Here is another quote from the MS Society website that expresses well what happens:

While everyone is forgetful sometimes, people with MS may have memory lapses that signal cognitive impairment, one of the most disturbing hidden symptoms of MS. The problems are usually subtle and are termed "mild", but they can have a major impact on a person's life.

So, much as I regret leaving my wonderful job, I feel a strong need to do everything possible to preserve my health. It is my hope to see each of you at your parks while I am walking, hiking and moving as much as possible for as long as possible.

I've learned a lot about what having a "disability" means and hope talking about mine will help each of you understand a bit more too. Please don't be afraid to talk to me about this, if you want to, or not! Getting a diagnosis has actually been a gift, because it explains some things. It also causes me to focus on what really counts in life.

For support during my ups and downs, I extend heartfelt thanks to **Lynne Frost, Bob Milne and Brad Kosch**. And sincere apologies to **Stacey** and accounting staff for all the extra work I have made for you when the lights were out! I am honored to have been part of State Parks for the last four years.

To each of you, I suggest you remember that life is unpredictable and the unexpected can happen to anyone at any time. Be kind, play hard, laugh often and take time to take care of your selves.

"Strength does not come from Physical Capacity. It comes from an indomitable will."
- Mohandas Gandhi

At Dayton we wrapped up the windbreak/garden project. It happened through the combined efforts of camp hosts, **Richard and Mary Rebeiro** and the substantial efforts from the **Lyon County Juvenile Probation** work crew led by **Pam Zierenberg**. Pam worked alongside over 45 kids over the course of the summer and we all fell in love with the project. The kids have brought their parents to the park to see their work and several have volunteered to come back to work even when not assigned by a judge.





Camp Host and friend, **Mary Rebeiro**, brought much joy, knowledge and energy to the project. She has metastasizing brain cancer and is spending her final days at her home in Texas. We are naming the project "Mary's Garden" and dedicate it to her with love and gratitude.

Bob Milne tiled the ramada counter and put in a new sink with hot water. The tile really adds a touch of class to counter. Bob spent quite a few back-aching hours on the backhoe and with a shovel installing irrigation for the new garden areas. **Paul Long** worked half the summer on crutches due to a variety of conditions, but kept the park well-groomed in spite of everything. He continued in his mission to make the park comfortable for families by discouraging the most disreputable visitors from staying.

All in all, it was a bittersweet summer at Dayton. Three grandmas, a guy on a crutch, 45 juvenile semi-delinquents and a guy with a bad back on a backhoe have left a legacy, which should grow and flower long after we are all gone. We became friends, worked, laughed and made the park more inviting.

MORMON STATION STATE HISTORIC PARK

By Jean Murray

Mormon Station was busy as always and summer went very smoothly thanks to returning staff **Lynne Frost** and **Donna Long**. The two-day seasonal position was expertly staffed by **Tammy Buzick**. Her knowledge and energy was a terrific

asset and we hope that she will take another break from her real life of teaching, writing books and doing research to join us again next summer. Before she left, Tammy put together a history of the park and area to help future staff fend off the "history police." **Guy Rocha**, Nevada State Archivist, actually calls Tammy with questions!



Five year seasonal, **Donna Long**, will be leaving to relocate in Arkansas. Her departure leaves a big gap at Mormon Station. Her dedication to historic research has contributed greatly and will be very much missed.

The **Candy Dance** went very smoothly after 84 years of practice. The event was advertised in *Sunset Magazine* and people began appearing weeks ahead of the September event in search of homemade candy. Attendance was down somewhat at the event, from an estimated 80,000 to 70,000 this year. Lynne reports that no vendors wanted trees cut down for their booths and that was a first.

The grass has returned to normal after being tramped by vendors and visitors and the trees are in full fall color. Come visit and take a deep breath as you watch yellow and red leaves drift to the ground in this beautiful park.

WASHOE LAKE STATE PARK

By Domenic Bravo

Welcome to Washoe Salt Flats where the lake is dry, but there are so many other things to do. Well, it is official this year the lake has gone completely dry, leaving many people to wonder if my statements of making it snow are going to be true. Everyone will have to wait until the next PEN to find out.

It has been a very exciting summer filled with learning, experiments and projects. We made a mad dash to complete and finish the few remaining projects on the FY04 Cat. 67 list. We also created many of our own. We fixed, repaired and stained the concrete at the group area, did tons of fence work, did maintenance on the trails, repaired water lines (a common trend in this park), repainted every restroom, finished painting the office shop and the list goes on...

We also experimented with having a Blues Bayou concert on September 25, 2004. This event had performers, such as the Fabulous Thunderbirds in the park. It was a very beneficial event that gave us increased fees, some donated equipment items and data for other events, such as carrying capacity. Special thanks to **Steve Silva** and **Rick Keller** for their assistance during this event.

The park is now going to use the winter months to expand its prospects. **Donna Silva** is currently taking a course in Environmental Education and will be revamping our interpretive program. **John Payne** has been working on a maintenance project list and trying to stay 'caught up' on the water system. He also found time to play hero to a magpie that was stuck in an SST at Little Washoe and two little kittens that were placed in the restroom at the wetland viewing area. John also assisted by turning the pump on at the wetlands for increased water during the Waterfall fire. **Jim Black**, after losing the water at North Ramp, has been a great help on special projects and has provided great Law Enforcement (LE) coverage for this park and others, including the mini wildfire two days after I arrived and assistance on the Waterfall fire.

Now if I can just find my snow dance book....



FALLON/ELKO REGION

BERLIN-ICHTHYOSAUR STATE PARK*By Mike Dinauer*

We are proud to announce that Berlin-Ichthyosaur State Park was voted **Best Rural Nevada State Park** by Nevada Magazine. Honors for the staff include huge pay raises and an extra month of paid annual leave.

As the tour season winds down, major park projects will be receiving our almost full attention. Two stick-built seasonal residences will replace the dilapidated travel trailers our seasonal employees have been calling their summer home. The new residences will be a major improvement. During the summer high winds damaged the fiberglass panels on the fossil shelter roof. In addition to new fiberglass panels, the entire roof is going to be replaced.

Roughly 600 (mostly Pinion Pine) trees will be removed between the campground and the fossil shelter/picnic area. This project will be done by the **Nevada Division of Forestry (NDF)** contractor for fire fuels reduction and forest health concerns.

Last, but not least, we will be getting a new back-up generator. Many of you may be thinking "Big deal." But for those of us who make our own electricity it is a "Big deal." Our current power plant isn't the most reliable piece of machinery ever built.

I would like to thank **Adam** and **Robin** for their hard work and dedication this summer. Jeff and I hope you both will be returning next year. A thank you is also in order for park volunteer, **LaDonna Hughes**. Until next time, I hope everyone has a wonderful wet winter.

FT. CHURCHILL STATE HISTORIC PARK*By Greg Meis*

The season is changing here at the fort. We received some much needed rain; we hope it will continue throughout the fall and winter months. We have a new pet bobcat roaming through our campground. Most of the public who has visited the campground have seen the cat and that's all the public talks about.

The busy season is slowing down with the exception of a few programs and horseback riding events. We would like to congratulate our staff for the outstanding jobs they did during the summer season. A big thank you goes to **Howard Wren**, **Dylan Conlin** and **Donna Hoeckel**. Also, our Camp Host, **Lee Hoeckel**, did an excellent job with keeping the campground in immaculate shape. **Lee** and **Donna**, Camp Hosts, have left the park and are heading to warm sunny Florida to work as camp hosts at a privately run resort until next year.

The Adobe Ruins Project is almost completed; the contractor is cleaning up around the ruins and will construct new park signs made out of bricks at all the park accesses. The ruins look great and are stabilized for the public to enjoy.

Region III maintenance staff has constructed two new bridges at the campground and the picnic area. We would like to thank the maintenance crew for their hard work. Both bridges are very sturdy and look great.

Last weekend, an Eagle Scout Project was done by **Bret Jorgenson** and his fellow scouts. The project consisted of building a fence, planting a hedge row of trees and shrubs between the park's campground and the group use area. The project was a great success for everyone involved. Special thanks to Bret, his fellow scouts and parents.



This is a great time of the year to come to the park and go horseback riding. Several groups are taking advantage of the cooler weather and no insects to enjoy this activity at the park. In the last few weeks, we have welcomed approximately 200 to 300 riders. If you like to go horseback riding now is the time. For more information contact the park (775) 577-2345.

RYE PATCH STATE RECREATION AREA*By Jim Hawkins*

Well, summer is finally over and so starts the season to fix all that has managed to have been broken, carved on, smashed, cut, or blown over. Yes, it's going to be another typical off-season in that respect. What some visitors couldn't manage to break or damage, harsh weather did. Overall, I would say this has been the windiest year I can remember, nothing seems to come in moderation around here. At the end of September, what looked like a tiny little black cloud poised quietly in a sea of blue soon began a rumble of thunder and lightning and all at once unleashed a downpour that swelled all the gullies and ravines with surging muddy waters. Gravel roads were washed away and the lawn area in the day use area was replaced with a layer of gray mud. We were thankful no one was camped on the eastside of the river at the time. In less than one hour, there was more water rolling through the park than I have seen at Rye Patch in three years. Minus one minor road and a few sections of our nature trails, things are recovering nicely.

Work has finally started on the new Boat Ramp Parking Area; however, progress has been slow. On the second day of construction, the company's water truck was nearly swallowed whole by the nasty clay at the reservoirs shoreline. To salt the wound, in efforts to free the truck, they brought the backhoe down and it was swallowed. By this time all the campers in the campground gathered round to see the show. Sadly, I have to admit, "It was good watching." One D-9 CAT and a whole lot of cable later they were back on track and progress continues.

We welcomed the first storm to dust the mountains white with high hopes of just a meager beginning of a lot more of the white stuff. Despite cooler nights camping has still been going strong. Some of the local fishermen's persistence is amazing. Just the other day I saw a couple of guys doing a lot of casting and reeling to no avail with rain and sleet blowing in sideways. With a nine pound and an eleven pound Walleye recently caught a day apart, the word gets out fast and can have a strange effect on some fishermen. This brings an end to my stories until next time. We hope everyone enjoys the upcoming holidays and a wet winter.



SOUTH FORK STATE RECREATION AREA

By Jim Wilkinson

Ranger, **Bob Mergell**, was a Silver Medallist in the International Police Olympics in Las Vegas. Bob only had one fight, but it was a real knockout. Aside from a broken nose and two black rings around both eye sockets, Bob was none the worse for wear. Bob was seeing stars, but they weren't the Hollywood type. All kidding aside, we congratulate Bob on his effort, his willingness to be challenged, and his fortitude.



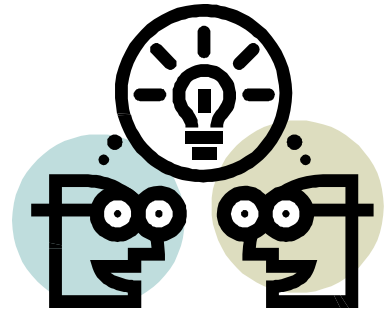
We have completed all bulldozer work on our West Shore Trail Extension project. The trail surface went in smoothly and without any hitches. **Mark Bivens** deftly took on the challenge of operating a fun piece of equipment. He did an excellent job. **Joe Hawkins** was of great assistance in ensuring Mark stayed on task. He had the important job of ensuring that Mark's blade depth was kept at a proper level. If you watch the little things, the big things take care of themselves. Environmental impacts were minimal. This trail was ready to be made. We are now letting the bladed surface settle, and checking to see if any drainage problems occur. In



the spring of 2005, we will install Type 2 road base. The Type 2 surface will be compacted and hopefully stay in place for a long time. I now have a great trail to use to spray weeds. This will open this area up for better weed management.

We are still keeping our fingers crossed in hoping a major Improvement Project obtains funding. This project would install shade structures and correct our current South West Shore Boat Launch to accommodate our drought induced low water conditions. We have not heard as of this date if this project was approved.

We are looking high and low to find a capable Shade Structure design that will give our visitors both shade and wind protection. We want to build these "in house" and save money on shipping costs and the costs of purchasing the prefabricated kits. If you have any ideas, please contact **Bob Mergell**. Plan designs, etc would be especially nice. We are looking at a Pergola style structure that kind of looks like a half moon. We want to use an angle iron/pipe frame with slats. This will solve our shade and wind protection requirement.



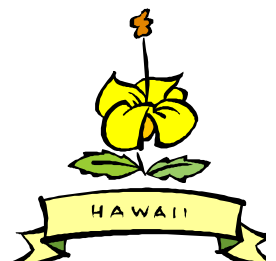
The entire South Fork crew also needs to be commended for installing a new metal roof on our tool shed. We turned a flat roof into a pitched roof with gables, and overlaid a new metal roof on an existing roof that has asphalt shingles. Aside from saving our tools from rust, and saving the structural integrity of our tool shed, the roof now matches the roof on our shop and office. Forest green stands out in a landscape of yellow and gray. This roof will be here for a long time.

2005 will hopefully see the start of a major Question 1 Bond Project for South Fork, which is the renovation of our developed campground. We can never match the niceties of the Panaca Region campgrounds, but we want to make our campers more comfortable. Shade structures, pull thru sites, and more landscaping will definitely help us. We hope you have a safe winter.

WILD HORSE STATE RECREATION AREA

By Andrew Bass

Did you know? The town of Owyhee to the north of Wild Horse and the Owyhee River that flows out of the reservoir is named after the Hawaiian Islands. One story claims that some of the first settlers through the area were reminded of Hawaii, because of the lava rock. Another story says that some prisoners from Hawaii escaped into the area. Probably a combination stories is true and the area was named "Hawaii." Not being sure of the spelling, it was spelled phonetically as Owyhee.



PANACA REGION

BEAVER DAM STATE PARK

By Cameron Wheeler

To comment on Jennifer's spring question, I think we all have our fair share of classic questions. My favorite two: "Are there beaver here?" and "Are those real beaver lodges?"

The real problem with our visitors is that they will not tell their friends and co-workers where they went camping. If, by chance they have already told friends where they were going, when they return home they tell them it is 60 miles of the roughest dirt road (one way) they have ever driven and what an unpleasant an experience they had. Then we will see these same campers return the next weekend.

This spring and summer, we have been quite busy with the Free Fishing Day, a Mountain Man Rendezvous, many scout and church groups, and Trail Day. We have to give thanks to **Cody Tingey** and his boy scouts. They have started cutting the Beaver Dam end of the Clover Crest Trail that will eventually link Beaver Dam and Kershaw-Ryan State Parks. **Mike Fewell** with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) started work on the Kershaw-Ryan portion of the trail. This trail, when completed, will be roughly 25 miles long with very many beautiful points of interest along the way.

Lately, Beaver Dam has not been the hot spot to fish, but with the help of **John Hutchings** of Nevada Division of Wildlife (NDOW) and Panaca Region staff, we have received some fish plants this year. The lake is to receive an aeration system, which will greatly improve the fish habitat.

October has been a very rainy month for us here and has kept us very busy. We have had some very impressive amounts of water flow through Beaver Dam Wash, which jeopardized the reservoir.



The flood on October 21st completely wiped out the day use area, scattering picnic tables and the porta-potty up into the trees. The rancher below the park stated that it was the most water he had seen come down the wash in over 50 years. This was followed just one week later by an almost equally impressive flood.



Our proposal for a rental cabin in the park has been approved and we are anxious to get started on the work for this new addition. This will be an interesting experiment.

CATHEDRAL GORGE STATE PARK & VISITOR CENTER

By Barbara Rohde

Well, the construction work on the campground is about complete, though there is still much to be done. Because the contractor came in over-bid, some of the materials for the renovation were purchased, but park staff will be installing them.

Cathedral Gorge was the site of the first celebration for **National Public Lands Day** in Lincoln County, on Saturday, Sept. 25. A crowd of around 45 people showed up to help plant trees and sod, and attend educational booths on topics such as Leave No Trace, Tread Lightly, Mine Safety, Fire Safety, GPS and Geo-caching, and watch **Tom DeVuono** as he made arrowheads. Lunch was served, and everyone who attended got a free t-shirt (provided by the BLM).



The other big event for September was the 18th Annual Las Vegas Astronomical Society (LVAS) campout and Star Party. This year, the weather was not kind to us; high winds on Friday and Saturday discouraged some of the members, and not as many people came out for the Star Party since there were clouds on the horizon and lightning flashing away. But those who persevered enjoyed their weekend, and the park was the lucky beneficiary of a 6" Dobsonian Telescope – donated by the person who won it during the L.V.A.S.'s raffle.



PANACAC REGION (Con't)



We promised you a photo of **Pete Weimer** in the last edition of the P.E.N., and you don't know how hard it was to keep him standing still long enough to get one. But while we were celebrating his birthday on the next-to-last weekend of his working here, we got him to pose for a moment. They say the camera adds 10 pounds; no, it's the CAKE!

And here he is in the Gorge, chatting with some campers at the Group Area. Pete's last day was Sept. 26, and he went back to his family in Utah. Since he has a taxidermy business, and hunting season is upon us, he will stay "plenty busy" this winter!



Lest you think we have forgotten **Nevin & Cody**, here they are hard at work, planting trees. Nevin's last day was Oct. 17, but she

will volunteer as needed at the Visitor Center this winter.

Notice **Ben Johnson** and **Steve Weaver** supervising the project... this was on Public Lands Day. Ben is chairman of the Diversified Interagency Recreation Team, or D.I.R.T. Hats off to you, Ben, for organizing this productive and educational day!



Saturday night programs will continue through the end of this month, then I am done for the winter. Attendance has been up,

which is gratifying after a few years of low attendance. It has been a good summer, with good visitors and great co-workers. Hope you all have had a good summer as well, and remember to stop by and say hi when you're in the neighborhood!

CAVE LAKE STATE PARK

By Steve Gray

It is that time of year again when the campgrounds only have a few die-hards staying. We weren't that busy during deer season this year with the decline in tags in our area, but we were able to tackle many projects. The Cave Lake Overlook trail is 95% complete. It took a couple of pizzas and twelve packs of soda to get the NDF crews out to help us along. The new White Pine Trails Committee helped us on the trail for three days completing approximately 300 yards of new trail. This is sure helpful manpower and proves how wonderful volunteers are when they show their dedication.

January is just around the corner and Cave Lake and the White Pine County Chamber of Commerce will be hosting a snow sculpting competition on January 15-17, 2005. This event will be followed by other events in White Pine County including the Annual Ice Fishing Derby. This should be a fun filled winter up on the mountain.



This picture is **Terry** and **Steve's** first sculpting venture that we had ready for Valentines Day last year. Every Friday we did a new sculpture for the visitors to look at on the weekends. It worked great!!!

Until next time, collect fees, plow snow, collect donations, keep your powder dry, and remember "it's all entertainment."

KERSHAW-RYAN STATE PARK

By Shaylen Budreau

The staff here at Kershaw-Ryan and Beaver Dam State Parks say good bye to **Phillip Campeau**. Phil was our Park Aide here at Kershaw-Ryan from May through August. He left to attend U.N.R.

Our L.E. Vehicle stationed at Kershaw-Ryan spontaneously combusted while parked next to the Ranger residence early September. The fire marshal investigated the truck with no explanation of what could have started the fire. Phares Woods theory was that a meteor came from the sky and struck his vehicle causing it to spontaneously combust. The vehicle was sent to McCroskies Body Shop and a few weeks later the truck was back on duty. It is now referred to as the Fire Truck.

PANACA REGION (Con't)

The busy season is over. Kershaw-Ryan is receiving more and more recognition every year that passes. This summer the park was reserved almost every weekend. The reservation groups included: weddings, family reunions, birthday parties, school groups, local family outings and Union Pacific Railroader's, all having a great time.

This year was the first time I have had a chance to experience what just a little bit of water can do coming out of the washes at Kershaw-Ryan. After two weeks of constant rain, the washes started to flow. The wash that our Rattle Snake trail lies on is completely destroyed. The picnic tables have approximately five inches of silt deposited on top of them. The rest of the trail is eroded away, with big boulders protruding from the ground. Water coming from the main wash eroded away the road that went east up the wash. It also came close to eroding down to the park's main water line.

SPRING VALLEY STATE PARK

By Andrew Porter

"Today is Sunday, the most dreaded day of the week for the Spring Valley crew. Although today is the day when our rapacious campers slothfully depart in a sporadic manner to retreat back to their industrialized havens, it is also the bearer of a short coming event...Site Cleaning Day!!! -Erin Neat's excerpt from the Spring Valley Crew Journal 2004

One more season in the bag. A usual (*always unusual*) Spring Valley summer handled expertly by veteran shock troops **Andrew Bleak, Corry McBride, and Erin Neat**, with grateful appearances made by the **Conservation Youth Corp Boys'** crew, the ever valuable **NDF** crew, and our dedicated **Stone Cabin Volunteers**. We would also like to confer special thanks to the extended families of Spring Valley for their infinite tolerance.

This summer blessed us with a few spare moments from cleaning, weed control, and camper control. We managed to slip in a couple projects: trail construction intended to improve fishing access along the reservoir, stone masonry around culverts for durability and looks, and a kiosk/life jacket bin built by **NDOW** and installed by our able colleagues **Lee Hiatt and Jim Cole**.

Overall it was an uneventful summer. It was not intentional to be brief here, but maybe the next time I walk into the office and flinch at the blinding orange paper, and see the words: REQUEST FOR ACTION, I will ... no, actually it will then be Mr. Gill's turn!

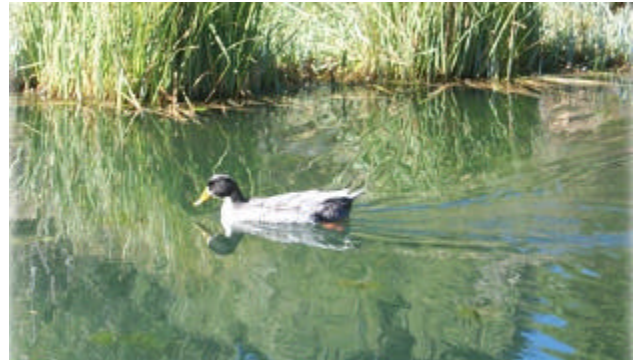
WARD CHARCOAL OVENS STATE HISTORIC PARK

By Steve Gray

Ward Charcoal Ovens is coming along nicely. The Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) trail is almost complete, we are within a quarter mile of completion, and the trailhead just needs its sign. I am looking forward to its grand opening Memorial Day. This trail will be approximately seven miles

within the park boundary and then ties in to BLM property, which accesses thousands of acres along various dirt roads. This has been a lot of work, but I am certain our visitors will enjoy the end result. We have started a re-vegetation program at Ward to help confine OHV to the obvious trails and not the old roads and utility corridors throughout the park. Thus far our efforts are paying off.

Mike Ray has officially accepted the position as the new Cave Lake/Ward Charcoal Ovens Park Ranger. **Terry Ivins** and I are ready for him (almost) as we are not yet finished with the Ward Charcoal Ovens residence remodel. This house will be a spacious 3 bedroom, 2 ½ bath house located in a lush meadow atmosphere with a pond (that has a duck named



Jake). We are completing the fireplace, to be much more efficient, building a master bedroom with a master bath attached and a separate laundry room (to get it out of the kitchen). The kitchen has been gutted for cleaning and redesigned to a modern level.

Terry made a lot of improvements along the road to the park making it more two wheel drive savvy. The campground finally got its gravel. It is as smooth as a highway (at least in rural Nevada). The transformation is coming together. It is a good feeling to see everything get done properly for the enjoyment of our many visitors. Until your next charcoal picnic, remember how hard it used to be to make charcoal!!!

NEW EMPLOYEE

By Alyce Cloutier

Marc Lepire is our new Project Manager I. He replaces Oscar Sanders. Marc came to us from Department of Transportation (NDOT), where he was a Construction Project Coordinator for 5 years. Prior to working for the state he worked in the private sector for 3 years as an Intern Architect for John Copoulos Architect. As Project Manager for State Parks, Marc will be responsible for the design and administration of park building projects; including programming, preparation and coordination of drawings, specifications and bid documents and preparation and administration of construction contracts. We all welcome him in to Park's family!



LAS VEGAS REGION

LAS VEGAS REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS

By Gary Rimbey

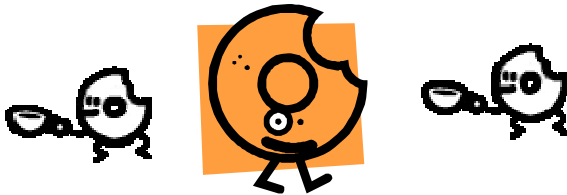
Where do I start? I was going to tell you all about some of the staff receiving longevity plaques, a little write up about the projects in our region, and an up date of new employees. But now I think I need to tell you about **Norma Saffell**.

I know some of you have had the pleasure of dealing with Norma and a lot of you have worked in the Las Vegas Region and have had the "Norma" experience first hand.

I knew Norma for almost 25 years, and the pleasure of working directly with her the last 4 years. It is hard to put into words the feelings about her passing. Everyone here has experienced just about every emotion possible. Saying the usual things people say about losing a friend and a loved one, just seem so small and empty.

We appreciate everyone's support and understanding over the last few weeks and thanks for all of your help. It is not going to be easy to start over, but I know Norma would not want us to continue to grieve and carry on. In fact, I can hear her telling me what to do now, I would let you know what she is saying, but I would get censored again.

So, some day would you all lift up an old fashion glazed donut in her honor, and say thank you, not only to a great employee, but a wonderful person and a good friend to all of us. Thank you Norma for the pleasure of knowing you.

SPRING MOUNTAIN RANCH STATE PARK

By Tony Beauregard

Well, summer has ended and fall is heating up, program wise that is. We started our fall program series with a nice hike, a short talk and some of us found GOLD! That's right gold panning brought about 100 visitors to come try their luck.

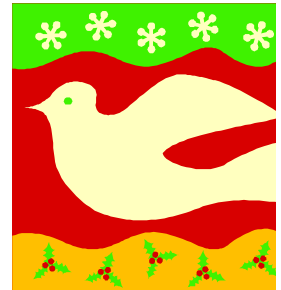
In addition to these programs, we had a great turnout for our 12th Annual Living History program. Kids of all ages came out to make candles, soap and learn how to make cowboy beans in Dutch ovens. In the old days, they were probably made in the same pot.

I couldn't get **Chris** to dress up so Park Tech, **Connie Waldroup**, played the hostess to 500 plus visitors. Thanks Connie for your help. Sorry I missed the square dancing, but I was...uh...busy with important duties well away from the dance floor.

I would like to thank all of the volunteers (more than 30) and the organizations that helped to sponsor our program this year.

Super Summer Theater, Nevada State Parks Cooperative Association and our **Docents** were, as always, outstanding. Thank you for making this program possible.

Well, that's about it. I'm off to round up some mountain men for a November rendezvous. Have safe and happy holidays. See ya at the ranch.

VALLEY OF FIRE STATE PARK

By Jim Hammons

Valley of Fire and its staff are moving into the fall busy season and we are enjoying the change in season. Ok, so we don't have fall colors, but at least it is cooler. Along with the season changes, the park has a few of its own. We welcome aboard a new Ranger, **Brian Sundeen**. He has migrated down from Montana to give us a hand. We should be able to add another ranger soon once background investigations are completed.

Park Ranger Technician, **Heidi Melick**, is nurturing what we hope will be a future park ranger. Heidi gave birth to **Samatha Catherine Ann Melick** on August 10th. Baby and mom are doing fine and Heidi plans to return to duty in December. Samatha should be ready to start in about 20 years.



We have already started our fall programs and events. We have presented topics ranging from bats, snakes and bighorn sheep to petroglyphs. The Halloween Jubilee, coming up, which will have games, crafts, snacks and a treasure hunt. It is our first one, so we are hoping for it to be a big success. The 42 mile relay race, the Brass Challenge, passed through without a hitch. Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department puts it on, so if anything goes wrong on that one day, I have plenty of backup available. Within in the next month we will be the site of a marathon and part of a Multiple Sclerosis Bicycle Fund Raiser for any one who likes a little physical exertion.

Well, that's it for now. Hope all is well for everyone else!

Looking back, may I be filled with gratitude;
Looking forward, may I be filled with hope;
Looking upward, may I be aware of Strength;
Looking inward, may I find peace.



PERSONNEL

By Anke Simpson

Well, things are slowing down a bit. We would like to give recognition to those who have continued to work at State Parks over the years:

PARK SERVICE PLAQUES & CERTIFICATES FOR 2004

30 YEARS - Jim Prida, Jan Prida

25 YEARS - Jim Black, Karen Rennick, Gary Rimbey,
J. Steve Weaver

20 YEARS - Jim Hammons, Terry Hansen

15 YEARS - Bill Champion, Jim Wilkinson

10 YEARS - Rick Keller

5 YEARS - Joe Fontaine, Steve Gray, Andrew Porter

NEW PERMANENT EMPLOYEES

Michele Hudson transferred from the Department of Administration to the Accounting Assistant II position at Carson Region Headquarters on 07/26/04. **Tina Teperoff** started in the Accounting Assistant II position at the Division Office on 08/02/04. Tina transferred to State Parks from the Division of Industrial Relations. **Jose Aguirre** transferred from Buildings and Grounds to the Maintenance Repair Specialist II position at Floyd Lamb on 09/27/04. **Marc Lepire** transferred from the Department of Transportation and began working in the Project Manager I position at the Division Office on 10/25/04.

GOOD BYES

Patrick Meyer left his Park Ranger I position at Valley of Fire on 09/05/04. **Jean Murray** will be retiring from her Park Supervisor I position at Dayton State Park and Mormon Station on 11/14/04. Good luck to both of them.

NEVADA STATE PARKS COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION (NSPCA)

By Ginny Selwood

Well, it's that time of year again. We are looking forward to reviewing your project request for approval in January. We all missed going through the process last year, when we disbursed funds by Region. Hopefully, we'll be able to schedule another park tour next summer, if scheduling and budget concerns permit.

As you know, NSPCA has commenced ordering logo merchandise from Collegiate Graphics. You should be receiving new guidelines and ordering instructions by early December. We are looking forward to working with you in efforts to improve sales and marketing.

I know there will be other references to **Norma Saffell** in this publication. I just wanted to add what a pleasure it was knowing and working with Norma for the past ten years. She was one of those truly rare individuals who managed to be positive and upbeat even when she was having a rotten day. More than her patient answers to my many questions, I will miss the enjoyable visits whenever I dropped by the office.



#4162

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